

Appl. No. 09/734,962
Arndt. dated September 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 28, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 remain in prosecution. The first instance of claim 25 has been changed to claim 24 and claims 28-31 have been amended to correct for labeling issues. The specification has been amended to include the missing serial number and filing date information for the noted related applications.

Claims 25, 28-31 were objected to because of Informalities. Claims 25 and 28-31 have been amended per the Examiner's constructive comment. As amended, claims 25 and 28-31 are believed to be in condition to overcome the noted objections.

Claims 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mitty et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,052). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The cited Mitty et al. (hereinafter Mitty) reference fails to teach or suggest steps c-e of claims 27-31, steps c-e recite, "(c) instantiating an application process on behalf of an end entity on the computer system, the end entity having credentials stored in the database; (d) requesting the Key Repository process for the credentials of the end entity by the application process; and (e) if the Key Repository process authenticates the application process as having been pre-authorized to have the credentials, building an encrypted credentials file and providing the application process with the file and a password for the file."

Mitty teaches an intermediary 115 that receives an encrypted outer envelope that includes an encrypted inner envelope having a message and a waybill that identifies the receiving party. The intermediary 115 decrypts the outer envelope and then forwards a new version of the encrypted outer envelope to the recipient. The intermediary 115 archives confirmation results from the final recipient which helps establish that the message was received. Mitty fails to teach or suggest a method of obtaining cryptographic credentials by an application running on a computer system as claimed in claims 27-31 (see Fig. 1 for a system view). There is no "instantiating an application process on behalf of an end entity on the computer system, the end entity having credentials stored in the database" as claimed in claims 27-31 in Mitty, nor can the receipt of an

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encrypted outer envelope by Mitty's intermediary be construed as an application process as recited in the claims 27-31. Furthermore, there is no teaching of "requesting the Key Repository process for the credentials of the end entity by the application process" in Mitty. Mitty's intermediary 115 reacts to receiving an encrypted message (encrypted envelope), there is also no "(c) instantiating an application process on behalf of an end entity on the computer system, the end entity having credentials stored in the database" as also recited in claims 27-31. As such, claims 27-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-22, 25, 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ober et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,307,936) and further in view of Mitty et al. Applicants agree with the Examiner's comment that the Ober reference fails to teach validating and recording authorizations of specific applications to access sensitive information in the database, wherein each of the at least one application is configured to query the Key Repository process for some or all of the sensitive information in the database and in response to the query from a particular instance of the at least one application, provide to the particular instance of the at least one application the requested some or all of the sensitive information only if the Key Repository process authenticates the particular instance of the at least one application as being pre-authorized to receive the requested some or all of the sensitive information.

The cited Mitty reference however fails to teach or suggest the above noted limitations. There are is no application(s) in Mitty that is "configured to query the Key Repository process for some or all of the sensitive information in the database" as claimed in claims 1, 3-22, 25 and 26. Col. 2, lines 29-55 and Col. 10, lines 28-55 in Mitty, fail to provide teaching for this limitation. As previously mentioned, Mitty's encrypted message (encrypted envelope) is not an application as claimed in claims 1, 3-22, 25 and 26, therefore it is believed these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 23, 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ober and Mitty, and further in view of Price (U.S. Pat.

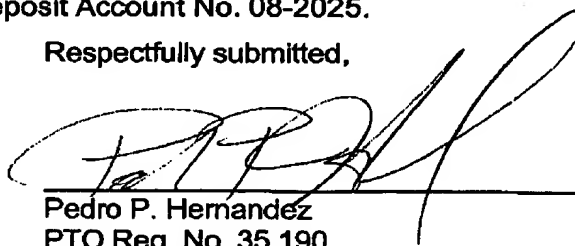
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No. 6,662,299). Claims 2, 23 and 25 are also believed to be in condition for allowance given the comments made above regarding the Mitty reference.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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